

# Bonner, Romaine Call for Cuts to Town Car Fleet

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**FARMINGVILLE, NY** - Brookhaven Council members Keith Romaine and Jane Bonner today announced plans to reduce the Town's vehicle fleet as part of the Comprehensive Vehicle Reform Policy they initiated in 2008. Under this phase of the vehicle plan, departmental vehicle use assessments will be used to reallocate cars in the fleet, with excess vehicles auctioned to the public.

Last week, Romaine and Bonner announced that Brookhaven has reduced gasoline consumption by more than 15 percent in 2009 over the same period last year, thanks to measures they initiated in the Comprehensive Vehicle Reform Policy. For the first quarter of 2009, gasoline powered Town vehicles used 14,270 gallons less than they did in the same period in 2008, for an estimated savings of over \$35,500.

"This new phase of this successful policy will result in further ongoing saving for Brookhaven taxpayers," said Councilwoman Bonner. "By eliminating the perk of vehicles being taken home by town employees and used for commuting, we have seen a substantial fuel savings, and a sharp reduction in the use of many of the cars in our fleet. Now, we will reassign our vehicles in each department based on need and use for official duties, and be able to reduce our fleet. By doing this, we will save a substantial amount of money on fuel, maintenance and insurance costs, in addition to the proceeds of auctioning these cars."

As part of Brookhaven's Comprehensive Vehicle Reform Policy, employees who had been assigned a Town-owned vehicle may no longer use them for commuting purposes. These cars, which had assigned to management and supervisory employees, must now be parked in assigned, designated spots at Town Hall at the end of the workday. This reform initiative, spearheaded by Bonner and Romaine, is the first significant effort to streamline, restructure and restrict Town vehicle use.

"This important reform was one of my first priorities when I took office last year, and it has been an overwhelming success," said Councilman Romaine, who co-sponsored the legislation for the Comprehensive Vehicle Reform Policy with Councilwoman Bonner. "Over the past several months, our vehicle control division has identified over 150 vehicles that can be used more efficiently, reassigned, and used to replace older vehicles in our fleet. Councilwoman Bonner and I will be meeting with the Vehicle Use committee over the next several weeks to implement this important phase of this policy."

Last year, before the new policy was put in place, more than a half-million miles were driven in Brookhaven Town vehicles for personal - not public - business. Both Councilwoman Bonner and Councilman Romaine refused to accept a publicly funded vehicle when they took office last year, using their own cars for all Town business without being reimbursed for fuel or mileage.

## **Division of Public Information \* Office of the Town Council**

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